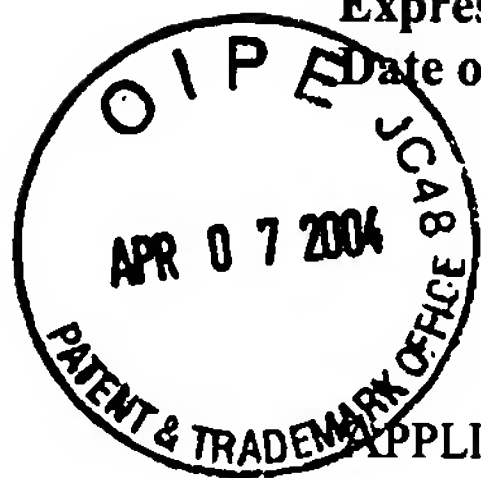


Express Mail No. EV 328186997 US
Date of Deposit: April 7, 2004

04 - 08 - 04
Attorney Docket No. 25840-501



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Nguyen, et al.
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/677,977 EXAMINER: Not Yet Assigned
FILING DATE: October 2, 2003 ART UNIT: 1639
TITLE: METHODS OF GENERATING AND SCREENING FOR PROTEASES
WITH ALTERED SPECIFICITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants submit a preliminary amendment to insert a paragraph claiming government sponsorship of the instant invention.

An **Amendment to the Specification** is shown on page 2 of this paper.



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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

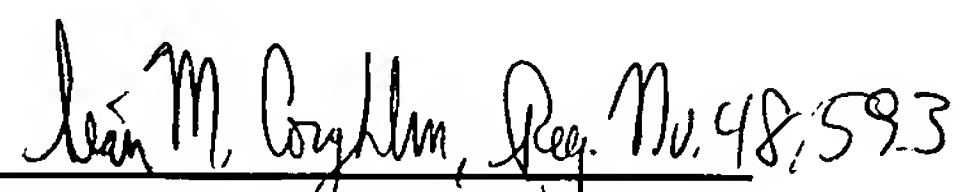
Enclosed herewith are the following for the above-identified non-provisional patent application:

1. Preliminary Amendment (3 pages);
2. Return postcard.

Applicant believes no additional fees to be due with this submission. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may be due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 25840-501). A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 7, 2004


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